

**Remarks**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-35 remain pending in the current application. Claims 1, 13, 19, and 32 are independent. Claims 13, 22, and 30 have been amended solely to address some minor typographical issues and matters of form, not for reasons related to patentability. Claims 1-35 have been rejected. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

***Patentability of Claims 1-35 over the Cited Art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)***

The Office Action rejects claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,558,910 to Dale et al. (“Dale”), U.S. Patent No. 4,356,525 to Kornrumpf et al. (“Kornrumpf”), U.S. Patent No. 4,745,511 to Kugelman et al. (“Kugelman”), and U.S. Patent No. 4,959,746 to Hongel (“Hongel”). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

For a 102(b) rejection to be proper, the cited art must teach every element of the claim. (See MPEP § 2131.) Applicant submits, however, that none of the cited references teaches every element of any of claims 1-35.

***Claims 1-12***

Independent claim 1 is directed to an active arc suppression circuit and recites in part:

- C. a power-off signal supply;
- D. an active shunt relay timing controller section in communication with the power-off signal supply and said solid state shunt relay; and
- E. a contact open delay controller section in communication with the power-off signal supply and to said power relay;

Claims 1-12 are patentable over Dale

Applicant respectfully submits that Dale does not teach many elements of independent claim 1. Dale describes a conventional arc suppression circuit having electromechanical relay means between an AC source and a load. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that nothing in Dale teaches a power-off signal supply, an active shunt relay timing controller section in communication with the power-off signal supply and said solid state shunt relay, or a contact open delay controller section in communication with the power-off signal supply and to said power relay, as recited in independent claim 1.

Because Dale does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Dependent claims 2-12 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 1. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Dale does not teach or suggest a contact open delay controller section, let alone an active arc suppression circuit wherein the contact open delay controller section comprises a delay circuit connected to a solid state delay relay, wherein the contact open delay controller section comprises a delay circuit connected to a solid state delay relay, wherein the contact open delay controller section comprises a delay circuit connected to a solid state delay relay, or wherein the contact open delay controller section comprises a delay circuit connected to a solid state delay relay, as recited in dependent claims 5, 6, 7, and 8, respectively.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-12 are also allowable.

Claims 1-12 are patentable over Kornfumpf

Applicant respectfully submits that Kornrumpf does not teach many elements of independent claim 1. Kornrumpf describes a hybrid contactor system and discusses shunting semiconductor switching units (*see, e.g.*, col. 3, line 53, to col. 4, line 2). Applicant respectfully submits, however, that nothing in Kornrumpf teaches an active shunt relay timing controller section in communication with the power-off signal supply and said solid state shunt relay, as recited in independent claim 1.

Because Kornrumpf does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Dependent claims 2-12 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 1. They are also independently patentable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-12 are also allowable.

Claims 1-12 are patentable over Kugelman

Applicant respectfully submits that Kugelman does not teach many elements of independent claim 1. Kugelman describes a circuit having an electro-mechanical relay and a shunting component (*see, e.g.*, shunt 32 in FIG. 1). Applicant respectfully submits, however, that nothing in Kugelman teaches a power-off signal supply, an active shunt relay timing controller section in communication with the power-off signal supply and said solid state shunt relay, or a contact open delay controller section in communication with the power-off signal supply and to said power relay, as recited in independent claim 1.

Because Kugelman does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Dependent claims 2-12 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 1. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Kugelman does not teach or suggest a contact open delay controller section, let alone an active arc suppression circuit wherein the contact open delay controller section comprises a delay circuit connected to a solid state delay relay, wherein the contact open delay controller section comprises a delay circuit connected to a solid state delay relay, wherein the contact open delay controller section comprises a delay circuit connected to a solid state delay relay, or wherein the contact open delay controller section comprises a delay circuit connected to a solid state delay relay, as recited in dependent claims 5, 6, 7, and 8, respectively.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-12 are also allowable.

Claims 1-12 are patentable over Hongel

Applicant respectfully submits that Hongel does not teach many elements of independent claim 1. Hongel describes a circuit having a relay and a shunting MOSFET. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that nothing in Hongel teaches a power-off signal supply, an active shunt relay timing controller section in communication with the power-off signal supply and said solid state shunt relay, or a contact open delay controller section in communication with the power-off signal supply and to said power relay, as recited in independent claim 1.

Because Hongel does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Dependent claims 2-12 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 1. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Hongel does not teach or suggest a contact open delay controller section, let alone an active arc suppression circuit wherein the contact open delay controller section comprises a delay circuit connected to a solid state delay relay, wherein the contact open delay controller section comprises a delay circuit connected to a solid state delay relay, wherein the contact open delay controller section comprises a delay circuit connected to a solid state delay relay, or wherein the contact open delay controller section comprises a delay circuit connected to a solid state delay relay, as recited in dependent claims 5, 6, 7, and 8, respectively.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-12 are also allowable.

*Claims 13-18*

Independent claim 13 is directed to a power controller system of the type controllable by a power control separate from the power controller system and recites in part:

- A. a power controller housing;
- B. a network communication client disposed in association with the housing;
- C. a power source penetrating the housing;
- D. at least one electrical output disposed in the housing; and
- E. at least one current shunting arc suppression power switching circuit disposed in the housing and being in communication with the network communication client, said current shunting arc suppression power switching circuit comprising:
  - (i) a power switch relay disposed in the power controller housing and having mechanical contacts, a power input connection connected to the power source, and a power output connection connected to the one electrical output;
  - (ii) a solid state shunt relay disposed in the power controller housing intermediate the power input connection of the power source and the one electrical output;

(iii)a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the network communication client and the solid state shunt relay; and

(iv)a power switch delay controller section disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the power signal supply and said power switch relay.

Claims 13-18 are patentable over Dale

Applicant respectfully submits that Dale does not teach many elements of independent claim 13. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Dale teaches a power controller housing, let alone a network communication client disposed in association with the power controller housing, a power source penetrating the power controller housing, at least one electrical output disposed in the power controller housing, at least one current shunting arc suppression power switching circuit disposed in the power controller housing, a power switch relay disposed in the power controller housing, a solid state shunt relay disposed in the power controller housing, a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing, or a power switch delay controller section disposed in the power controller housing, as recited in independent claim 13.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Dale teaches a network communication client, let alone a network communication client disposed in association with the power controller housing, at least one current shunting arc suppression power switching circuit disposed in the power controller housing and being in communication with the network communication client, or a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the network communication client and the solid state shunt relay, as recited in independent claim 13.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Dale teaches a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the network communication client and the solid state shunt relay, or a power switch delay controller section disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the power signal supply and said power switch relay, as recited in independent claim 13.

Because Dale does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is allowable.

Dependent claims 14-18 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 13 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 13. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Dale does not teach or suggest a power controller housing, let alone a plurality of a plurality of electrical outputs disposed in the power controller housing and a plurality of said current shunting arc suppression power switching circuits disposed in the power controller housing, each among the plurality of electrical outputs being connected to a corresponding one among the plurality of current shunting arc suppression power switching circuits, as recited in dependent claim 14.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that Dale does not teach or suggest a power controller application connectable to a network and through said network to said network communication client, as recited in each of dependent claims 16-18.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14-18 are also allowable.

Claims 13-18 are patentable over Kornrumpf

Applicant respectfully submits that Kornrumpf does not teach many elements of independent claim 13. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Kornrumpf

teaches a power controller housing, let alone a network communication client disposed in association with the power controller housing, a power source penetrating the power controller housing, at least one electrical output disposed in the power controller housing, at least one current shunting arc suppression power switching circuit disposed in the power controller housing, a power switch relay disposed in the power controller housing, a solid state shunt relay disposed in the power controller housing, a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing, or a power switch delay controller section disposed in the power controller housing, as recited in independent claim 13.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Kornrumpf teaches a network communication client, let alone a network communication client disposed in association with the power controller housing, at least one current shunting arc suppression power switching circuit disposed in the power controller housing and being in communication with the network communication client, or a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the network communication client and the solid state shunt relay, as recited in independent claim 13.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Kornrumpf teaches a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the network communication client and the solid state shunt relay, as recited in independent claim 13.

Because Kornrumpf does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is allowable.

Dependent claims 14-18 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 13 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 13. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Kornrumpf does not

teach or suggest a power controller housing, let alone a plurality of a plurality of electrical outputs disposed in the power controller housing and a plurality of said current shunting arc suppression power switching circuits disposed in the power controller housing, each among the plurality of electrical outputs being connected to a corresponding one among the plurality of current shunting arc suppression power switching circuits, as recited in dependent claim 14.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that Kornrumpf does not teach or suggest a power controller application connectable to a network and through said network to said network communication client, as recited in each of dependent claims 16-18.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14-18 are also allowable.

Claims 13-18 are patentable over Kugelman

Applicant respectfully submits that Kugelman does not teach many elements of independent claim 13. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Kugelman teaches a power controller housing, let alone a network communication client disposed in association with the power controller housing, a power source penetrating the power controller housing, at least one electrical output disposed in the power controller housing, at least one current shunting arc suppression power switching circuit disposed in the power controller housing, a power switch relay disposed in the power controller housing, a solid state shunt relay disposed in the power controller housing, a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing, or a power switch delay controller section disposed in the power controller housing, as recited in independent claim 13.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Kugelman teaches a network communication client, let alone a network communication client disposed in association with the

power controller housing, at least one current shunting arc suppression power switching circuit disposed in the power controller housing and being in communication with the network communication client, or a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the network communication client and the solid state shunt relay, as recited in independent claim 13.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Kugelman teaches a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the network communication client and the solid state shunt relay, or a power switch delay controller section disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the power signal supply and said power switch relay, as recited in independent claim 13.

Because Kugelman does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is allowable.

Dependent claims 14-18 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 13 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 13. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Kugelman does not teach or suggest a power controller housing, let alone a plurality of a plurality of electrical outputs disposed in the power controller housing and a plurality of said current shunting arc suppression power switching circuits disposed in the power controller housing, each among the plurality of electrical outputs being connected to a corresponding one among the plurality of current shunting arc suppression power switching circuits, as recited in dependent claim 14.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that Kugelman does not teach or suggest a power controller application connectable to a network and through said network to said network communication client, as recited in each of dependent claims 16-18.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14-18 are also allowable.

Claims 13-18 are patentable over Hongel

Applicant respectfully submits that Hongel does not teach many elements of independent claim 13. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Hongel teaches a power controller housing, let alone a network communication client disposed in association with the power controller housing, a power source penetrating the power controller housing, at least one electrical output disposed in the power controller housing, at least one current shunting arc suppression power switching circuit disposed in the power controller housing, a power switch relay disposed in the power controller housing, a solid state shunt relay disposed in the power controller housing, a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing, or a power switch delay controller section disposed in the power controller housing, as recited in independent claim 13.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Hongel teaches a network communication client, let alone a network communication client disposed in association with the power controller housing, at least one current shunting arc suppression power switching circuit disposed in the power controller housing and being in communication with the network communication client, or a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the network communication client and the solid state shunt relay (emphasis added), as recited in independent claim 13.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Hongel teaches a shunt relay controller section disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the network communication client and the solid state shunt relay, or a power switch delay controller section

disposed in the power controller housing in communication with the power signal supply and said power switch relay, as recited in independent claim 13.

Because Hongel does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is allowable.

Dependent claims 14-18 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 13 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 13. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Hongel does not teach or suggest a power controller housing, let alone a plurality of a plurality of electrical outputs disposed in the power controller housing and a plurality of said current shunting arc suppression power switching circuits disposed in the power controller housing, each among the plurality of electrical outputs being connected to a corresponding one among the plurality of current shunting arc suppression power switching circuits (*emphasis added*), as recited in dependent claim 14.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that Hongel does not teach or suggest a power controller application connectable to a network and through said network to said network communication client, as recited in each of dependent claims 16-18.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14-18 are also allowable.

*Claims 19-31*

Independent claim 19 is directed to a power controller and recites in part:

- A. a power controller housing;
- B. at least one electro-mechanical relay disposed in the power controller housing and having at least one relay contact providing means for switching off electricity between a power source and an electrical load;
- C. at least one solid state shunt switch disposed in the power controller housing and providing solid state shunting means for switchably shunting electricity from the power source to the electrical load, and
- D. timing controller means for first turning on the solid state shunting means, then opening said relay contact, and then turning off the solid state shunting means.

Claims 19-31 are patentable over Dale

Applicant respectfully submits that Dale does not teach many elements of independent claim 19. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Dale teaches a power controller housing, let alone at least one electro-mechanical relay disposed in the power controller housing and having at least one relay contact providing means for switching off electricity between a power source and an electrical load or at least one solid state shunt switch disposed in the power controller housing and providing solid state shunting means for switchably shunting electricity from the power source to the electrical load, as recited in independent claim 19.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Dale teaches timing controller means for first turning on the solid state shunting means, then opening said relay contact, and then turning off the solid state shunting means, as recited in independent claim 19.

Because Dale does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is allowable.

Dependent claims 20-31 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 19 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 19. They are also

independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Dale does not teach or suggest any type of network client means, let alone network client means for receiving a power control message over a communications network, said network client means being in communication with said timing controller, as recited in dependent claim 20, a network client means for independently receiving a power control message for each said electro-mechanical relays and its corresponding solid state shunting switch, as recited in dependent claim 24, or network client means for receiving a power control message over a communication network, said network client means being in communication with said timing controller, as recited in each of dependent claims 28-31.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20-31 are also allowable.

**Claims 19-31 are patentable over Kornrumpf**

Applicant respectfully submits that Kornrumpf does not teach many elements of independent claim 19. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Kornrumpf teaches a power controller housing, let alone at least one electro-mechanical relay disposed in the power controller housing and having at least one relay contact providing means for switching off electricity between a power source and an electrical load or at least one solid state shunt switch disposed in the power controller housing and providing solid state shunting means for switchably shunting electricity from the power source to the electrical load, as recited in independent claim 19.

Because Kornrumpf does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is allowable.

Dependent claims 20-31 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 19 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 19. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Kornrumpf does not teach or suggest any type of network client means, let alone network client means for receiving a power control message over a communications network, said network client means being in communication with said timing controller, as recited in dependent claim 20, a network client means for independently receiving a power control message for each said electro-mechanical relays and its corresponding solid state shunting switch, as recited in dependent claim 24, or network client means for receiving a power control message over a communication network, said network client means being in communication with said timing controller, as recited in each of dependent claims 28-31.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20-31 are also allowable.

Claims 19-31 are patentable over Kugelman

Applicant respectfully submits that Kugelman does not teach many elements of independent claim 19. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Kugelman teaches a power controller housing, let alone at least one electro-mechanical relay disposed in the power controller housing and having at least one relay contact providing means for switching off electricity between a power source and an electrical load or at least one solid state shunt switch disposed in the power controller housing and providing solid state shunting means for switchably shunting electricity from the power source to the electrical load, as recited in independent claim 19.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Kugelman teaches timing controller means for first turning on the solid state shunting means, then opening said relay contact, and then turning off the solid state shunting means, as recited in independent claim 19.

Because Kugelman does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is allowable.

Dependent claims 20-31 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 19 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 19. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Kugelman does not teach or suggest any type of network client means, let alone network client means for receiving a power control message over a communications network, said network client means being in communication with said timing controller, as recited in dependent claim 20, a network client means for independently receiving a power control message for each said electro-mechanical relays and its corresponding solid state shunting switch, as recited in dependent claim 24, or network client means for receiving a power control message over a communication network, said network client means being in communication with said timing controller, as recited in each of dependent claims 28-31.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20-31 are also allowable.

Claims 19-31 are patentable over Hongel

Applicant respectfully submits that Hongel does not teach many elements of independent claim 19. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Hongel teaches a power controller housing, let alone at least one electro-mechanical relay disposed in the power controller housing and having at least one relay contact providing means for switching off

electricity between a power source and an electrical load or at least one solid state shunt switch disposed in the power controller housing and providing solid state shunting means for switchably shunting electricity from the power source to the electrical load, as recited in independent claim 19.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Hongel teaches timing controller means for first turning on the solid state shunting means, then opening said relay contact, and then turning off the solid state shunting means, as recited in independent claim 19.

Because Hongel does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is allowable.

Dependent claims 20-31 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 19 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 19. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Hongel does not teach or suggest any type of network client means, let alone network client means for receiving a power control message over a communications network, said network client means being in communication with said timing controller, as recited in dependent claim 20, a network client means for independently receiving a power control message for each said electro-mechanical relays and its corresponding solid state shunting switch, as recited in dependent claim 24, or network client means for receiving a power control message over a communication network, said network client means being in communication with said timing controller, as recited in each of dependent claims 28-31.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20-31 are also allowable.

*Claims 32-35*

Independent claim 32 is directed to an active arc suppression circuit of the type for suppressing an arc across electro-mechanical elements in a circuit and recites in part:

- C. a shunt timing controller connected to the solid state shunt switch; and
- D. a delay timing controller connected to the electro-mechanical switch.

Claims 32-35 are patentable over Dale

Applicant respectfully submits that Dale does not teach many elements of independent claim 32. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Dale teaches a shunt timing controller, let alone a shunt timing controller connected to the solid state shunt switch, as recited in independent claim 32. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Dale teaches a delay timing controller, let alone a delay timing controller connected to the electro-mechanical switch, as recited in independent claim 32.

Because Dale does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 32 is allowable.

Dependent claims 33-35 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 32 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 32. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Dale does not teach or suggest an active arc suppression circuit wherein the shunt timing controller provides shunt means for activating the solid state shunt switch to shunt current between the current input and current output for a predetermined period, as recited in dependent claim 33.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 33-35 are also allowable.

Claims 32-35 are patentable over Kornrumpf

Applicant respectfully submits that Kornrumpf does not teach many elements of independent claim 32. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Kornrumpf teaches a delay timing controller, let alone a delay timing controller connected to the electro-mechanical switch, as recited in independent claim 32.

Because Kornrumpf does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 32 is allowable.

Dependent claims 33-35 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 32 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 32. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Kornrumpf does not teach or suggest an active arc suppression circuit wherein the shunt timing controller provides shunt means for activating the solid state shunt switch to shunt current between the current input and current output for a predetermined period, as recited in dependent claim 33.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 33-35 are also allowable.

Claims 32-35 are patentable over Kugelman

Applicant respectfully submits that Kugelman does not teach many elements of independent claim 32. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Kugelman teaches a shunt timing controller, let alone a shunt timing controller connected to the solid state shunt switch, as recited in independent claim 32. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Kugelman teaches a delay timing controller, let alone a delay timing controller connected to the electro-mechanical switch, as recited in independent claim 32.

Because Kugelman does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 32 is allowable.

Dependent claims 33-35 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 32 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 32. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Kugelman does not teach or suggest an active arc suppression circuit wherein the shunt timing controller provides shunt means for activating the solid state shunt switch to shunt current between the current input and current output for a predetermined period, as recited in dependent claim 33.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 33-35 are also allowable.

Claims 32-35 are patentable over Hongel

Applicant respectfully submits that Hongel does not teach many elements of independent claim 32. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Hongel teaches a shunt timing controller, let alone a shunt timing controller connected to the solid state shunt switch, as recited in independent claim 32. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in Hongel teaches a delay timing controller, let alone a delay timing controller connected to the electro-mechanical switch, as recited in independent claim 32.

Because Hongel does not teach every element of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 32 is allowable.

Dependent claims 33-35 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 32 and are allowable for at least the reasons recited above in support of their parent claim 32. They are also independently patentable. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that Hongel does not teach or suggest an active arc suppression circuit wherein the shunt timing controller provides

shunt means for activating the solid state shunt switch to shunt current between the current input and current output for a predetermined period, as recited in dependent claim 33.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 33-35 are also allowable.

***Request for Examiner Interview***

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned prior to issuance of the next Office Action in order to arrange for a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite prosecution. This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

***Conclusion***

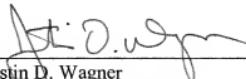
Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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